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Book Notes

by DICK LOCHTE

When Howard Hughes saw a movie about a girl and her horse, "The Return of October," he arranged to meet the girl, starlet Terry Moore, by "accident," and the rest is, as they say, romantic history. The Hughes-Moore affair, which Moore claims resulted in a never-rended marriage, is detailed in her new autobiography, "The Beauty and the Billionaire," a nice understated title, that. A publicity release describes the May Pocket paperback as "a tale of passion, betrayal and recompense," the latter a reference to the settlement Moore received from the Hughes estate. The 50-year-old heiress soon will be seen in a new cheesecake poster. Meanwhile, Doris Lilly, who once wrote a novel three decades ago titled "How to Meet a Millionaire," has updated that premise for "How to Meet a Billionaire" (Dell: $3.95). It's getting so books about mere millionaires can't raise a dime anymore.

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NEW ARRIVALS—Christopher Norwood's "How to Avoid a Cesarean Section" (Simon & Schuster: $14.95) is based in large measure on research performed at Los Angeles Women's Hospital. . . . Joyce Jillson, who explained that "Real Women Don't Pump Gas," is back with "The Fine Art of Flirting" (Cornerstone: $5.95), cover-blurbed as "the one and only complete guide for would-be flirts of all sexes." Included is information on 25 ways to be a great flirt and how to overcome the fear of flirting.

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EVENTS—*Today:* 1:30-3 p.m., the Brentwood Library celebrates National Library Week with an Authors' Forum, with Norman Corwin and Bernice Kert, at 11820 San Vicente Blvd. On Thursday and Friday (April 12-13), the library has scheduled a paperback-book sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. . . . 2:30 p.m., authors and actors gather for the San Vicente Library's celebration of NLW, 715 N. San Vicente Blvd. . . . 3:45 p.m., The Friends of the Arts presents the winners of a contest for high school poets at the Hermosa Beach Cultural Center, Room 7, Pacific Coast Highway at Pier Avenue. Call 379-9265. . . . 7:30 p.m., Roselle Lewis talks about coping with rejection at the California Writers Roundtable meeting, at the Douglas Park Clubhouse, Wilshire at 24th Street in Santa Monica. . . . *Monday:* 8 p.m., Richard Meltzer ("Post-Natal Trash") and David Smith ("Closer to Jesus") are part of an evening of poetry, prose and music at Bebop Records and Fine Art in Reseda (18433 Sherman Way). . . . *Tuesday:* 8 p.m., Doris Lessing lectures at UCLA's Ackerman Grand Ballroom. Call 825-2953. . . . *Wednesday:* 8 p.m., writer-critic Richard Lillard appears at Cal State Long Beach. Call 498-4087. . . . *Thursday:* 9:30 p.m., William Stevenson guests with Connie Martinson on Cable's Channel 10-Group W and Channel 34-Valley. . . . 6:15-7:30 p.m., Dick Francis ("The Danger") appears at Scene of the Crime in Sherman Oaks (13636 Ventura Blvd.). . . . 7 p.m., publicist Morton Wax, author Henry Tobias and Publishers Weekly's Lisa See guest at the dinner meeting of the Book Publicists of Southern California at the L.A. Press Club (600 N. Vermont). Reservations: Irwin Zucker, 461-3921. . . . *Friday:* 5-8 p.m., Frank Herbert launches "Heretics of Dune" at A Change of Hobbit in Santa Monica (1853 Lincoln Blvd.). . . . 10 p.m., Denise Levertov signs her books at Fahrenheit 451 bookstore in Laguna Beach (509 S. Coast Highway). . . . *Saturday:* 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., a book sale takes place at the Temple City Library (5939 N. Golden West Ave.). . . . 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., publicist/newsletter innovator Irwin Zucker conducts an all-day seminar on newsletters at the Press Club. Call 461-3921. . . . 3 p.m., Pauline Kael signs her new collection, "Taking It All In," at Book Soup (8868 Sunset). . . . 3 p.m., Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston ("Disney Animation") discuss their years with Disney and present film clips at the Santa Monica Library (1343 6th St.). . . . *Sunday,* April 14: 10:30 a.m., the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library at UCLA begins a seminar on literary exiles and refugees in Los Angeles. Reservations must be made by Monday, April 9. Call 731-8529.

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FINALLY—"Baseball's Greatest Insults" (Fireside paperback), compiled by Kevin Nelson, reminds us of hundreds of caustic pitches, including, from Jerry Reinsdorf, co-owner of the White Sox: "I know how to tell when George Steinbrenner is lying—his lips move." Gene Autry is quoted as noting: "Grantland Rice, the great sportswriter, once said: 'It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' Well, Grantland Rice can go to hell as far as I'm concerned."

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'Tapping the Source'

Continued from First Page

cheated. Goes out into the surf, is hit. Tries to talk to people, is brutally rebuffed. And look: He doesn't even know who these guys are! Ike stands on the pier day after day, watches those surfing experts. Then, because Ike knows about bikes, he's able to do a favor for Preston Marsh, an animal-like biker who befriends him—or does he?

There's new stuff here—a whole portrayal of the surfing life. Opposed to the purity of surfing at its very best, bikers wait in clusters on the beach—grimy and bearded, carrying chains.

It turns out Preston was a surfer, friend of Hound Adams, until *something happened,* and he went from sea to land, turned from a young, beautiful, hopeful boy into a hopeless brute. But Preston shows Ike the best waves, teaches him to surf and indirectly puts him in touch with the infamous three he's looking for.

It's not right to tell much of this story, except perhaps that Hound Adams is a golden boy gone bad—a surfer with wrinkles around his eyes and a heavy cocaine habit who commits (or abets the committing of) some literally spine-chilling crimes.

The thing is . . . there's so much pleasure, beauty, sensuality where this story is. Next to the hideous oil wells, the beauty of the sea. Inside another drab furnished room, a decent, lovely, frightened-courageous girl named Michelle. At those drugged-out parties, erotic pleasures beyond Ike's wildest dreams. Up the coast at a Santa Barbara ranch—hills bright with wild mustard slope down to a transparent sea, swelling with long and absolutely perfect waves—are crimes, or the possibility of crimes, too evil to mention, too evil to think about.

Every character here is "believable." And the inevitable destiny, the *end,* is worked out in a craftsmanly manner that doesn't leave the reader disappointed. (It seems hereay to say Nunn is better than Chandler here, but think of the limp ending of "The Little Sister.")

The most genuine character in "Tapping the Source" is this limited universe. A Samoan is almost killed in a bar, and "there was a patch of late afternoon fog rolling up the sidewalks from the ocean." As Ike gets the hang of surfing: "Above the water, tiny rainbows appeared in the spray blown back from the lips of the waves, and beneath the pier there was an incredible play of light and shadow, a seemingly infinite progression of blues and greens shot through with the rays of the sun. . . ."

We live in a narrow paradise between sky, sand, ocean. We love it, maybe, but we foul it up, pig it up. Worse, we forget to even look at it. Kem Nunn brings it all back with the force of one of those brutal socks poor Ike is always taking on the chin.

Best Sellers

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Placement on national list is noted in parentheses.

FICTION

1 **The Aquitaine Progression** by Robert Ludlum (Random House) (1)
2 **The Danger** by Dick Francis (Putnam's) (4)
3 **Smart Women** by Judy Blume (Putnam's) (3)
4 **Pet Sematary** by Stephen King (Doubleday) (5)
5 **One More Sunday** by John D. MacDonald (Knopf) (10)
6 **Almost Paradise** by Susan Isaacs (Harper & Row) (11)
7 **Heretics of Dune** by Frank Herbert (Putnam's) (8)
8 **Who Killed the Robins Family?** by Bill Adler and Thomas Chastain (Morrow) (2)
9 **Poland** by James A. Michener (Random House) (9)
10 **Lord of the Dance** by Andrew M. Greeley (Warner) (6)
11 **The Journeyer** by Gary Jennings (Atheneum)
12 **Stones for Ibarra** by Harriet Doerr (Viking)
13 **The Name of the Rose** by Umberto Eco (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) (12)
14 **The Butter Battle Book** by Dr. Seuss (Random House) (7)
15 **Floodgate** by Alistair MacLean (Doubleday) (13)

The National Best-Seller List also includes **Unto This Hour** by Tom Wicker (14) and **The Story of Henri Tod** by William F. Buckley Jr. (15).

GENERAL

1 **The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam** by Barbara W. Tuchman (Knopf) (1)
2 **Lines and Shadows** by Joseph Wambaugh (Morrow) (5)
3 **Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession** by Erma Bombeck (McGraw-Hill) (2)
4 **Eat to Win: The Sports Nutrition Bible** by Robert Haas (Scribner's) (7)
5 **Mayor: An Autobiography** by Edward I. Koch (Simon & Schuster) (3)
6 **James Coco Diet Book** by James Coco and Marion Paone (Bantam) (4)
7 **Tough Times Never Last, but Tough People Do** by Robert Schuller (Thomas Nelson) (6)
8 **One Writer's Beginnings** by Eudora Welty (Harvard Univ. Press) (12)
9 **On Wings of Eagles** by Ken Follett (Morrow) (11)
10 **The Discoverers** by Daniel J. Boorstin (Random House) (13)
11 **Weight Watchers Fast and Fabulous Cookbook** by Jean Nidetch (NAL Books) (10)
12 **Knock Wood** by Candice Bergen (Linden)
13 **Life Extension Companion** by Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw (Warner)
14 **In Search of Excellence: Lessons From America's Best Run Companies** by Thomas J. Peters and Robert H. Waterman (Harper & Row) (15)
15 **E. B. White: A Biography** by Elledge Scott (Norton)

The National Best Seller List also includes **Putting the One Minute Manager to Work** by Kenneth Blanchard and Robert Lorber (8), **Nothing Down** by Robert G. Allen (9) and **Creating Wealth** by Robert G. Allen (14).

AND THE CRITICS COMMEND

A Slot Machine, a Broken Test Tube, S. E. Luria (Harper & Row). Autobiographical confessions of an aloof, self-doubting microbiologist and Nobel laureate.

The Gathering Place, Jon L. Breen (Walker). Mystery about writers, book dealers and murderers in an old Los Angeles bookstore.

Hands and Hearts: A History of Courtship in America, Ellen K. Rothman (Basic Books). Study based on changing attitudes toward relationships at the turn of this century.

The Homefront: America During World War II, Mark Jonathan Harris, Franklin D. Mitchell and Steven J. Schechter (Putnam's). Remembrances of the war years by those who remained in the United States.

Horace's Compromise, Theodore R. Sizer (Houghton Mifflin). Study of mediocrity in our high schools.

The Integral Trees, Larry Niven (Del Rey/Ballantine). Sci-fi novel about a band of primitive natives that attempts to correct an ecological imbalance in the torus of gas where they live.

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